

## Daily Eagle

THE WORLD'S WONDERS.

Nature's Many Forces and Some of Art's Great Triumphs.

Scientific and Practical Discoveries Made During Recent Years—Historical Notes and Domestic Suggestions—Locations of the U. S. Capital.

## REMEDY FOR THE WHITE GRUB.

The use of benzene has been found effective in France in destroying the white grubs (the larvae of the May or dor bug), which often do immense damage, especially in dry seasons, to lawns, strawberry plants, seedling plants and other nursery stock. Holes are made in the ground infested with the grubs with one of the sharp iron dills used sometimes in transplanting small plants, and the benzene is poured into them. Fifty grains of benzene are used to the square yard, and care is taken to insert it above the feeding-ground of the grubs. In an experiment recently made by one of the French forest officers and reported at a meeting of the National Agricultural Society, the grubs on twelve acres were destroyed at a cost of three dollars and twenty cents per acre.

## AN ELECTRIC CLOCK.

A great deal of interest has been created in France by the novel form and operation of an electric clock, recently introduced, the peculiarity in the construction of which consists in the presence of two kinds of batteries, one a wet zinc-iron element and the other a dry zinc-iron element. The former consists of an iron bottle five and one-half inches high by three and one-half inches in diameter, which forms one electrode; the other electrode is a zinc rod passing through an India-rubber stopper into the center of the bottle, this being filled with caustic potash and oxide of mercury. There is no diaphragm, and the zinc is gradually consumed, while the oxide of mercury is reduced; the e. m. f. is 1.3 volts, and the internal resistance is .2 of an ohm. These clocks receive an impulse forty times a minute, and exhibit no weakening of the power either in the dry or the wet cell. An easy calculation will show the interesting fact that the total number of electrical impulses exceeds twenty-one million per annum—certainly a most severe duty for any battery.

## MICROBES DESTROYED BY STEAM.

The experiments of steam disinfection, recently tried in Jacksonville, have proved that the steaming process is thoroughly efficacious in destroying microbes in general, and also the yellow fever microbes. Active germs placed by Dr. Guiber in a glass bottle filled with water, and subjected to the steaming process, showed unmistakable life and activity. Microbes subjected to the steaming process, though for only ten minutes, and under very imperfect conditions, were afterward subjected to the same cultivation, but remained entirely inert.

## NEPTUNE'S SATELLITES.

M. Tisserand has presented a report to the Paris Academy of Sciences concerning some remarkable observations of the satellites of the planet Neptune, which was discovered in 1847. The angle which the plane of the orbit of this satellite made at that date with the ecliptic was about thirty degrees, but this angle has now increased by at least six degrees. The satellite moves around its principal in an opposite direction to that usually followed by other satellites, so that a question might be raised whether in the course of time this variation in the inclination of the plane of its orbit might not end in its movement around its principal becoming normal. M. Tisserand showed that this variation of inclination was due to the oblate or flattened condition of Neptune at its poles, and that it will complete its limit within a period of five hundred years, at the end of which time it will be as it was in 1847.

## VARIOUS LOCATIONS OF THE CAPITAL.

The Capital of the United States has been located at different times at the following places: At Philadelphia from September 26, 1774, until December, 1776; at Lancaster from December 30, 1776, to March, 1777; at York from March 4, 1777, to September, 1777; at Lancaster, Pa., from September 27, 1777, to September 26, 1777; at York, Pa., from September 26, 1777, to July, 1778; at Lancaster, Pa., from July 2, 1778, to June 30, 1778; at Lancaster, Pa., from June 30, 1778, to November 23, 1778; at Lancaster, Pa., from November 23, 1778, to November 30, 1778; at Trenton from November, 1778, to January, 1779; New York from January 1, 1779, to 1790; then the seat of Government was removed to Philadelphia, where it remained until 1800, since which time it has been at Washington.

## KEEN SENSE OF PRESSURE.

The relative sensibility to pressure of different parts of the body is ascertained by placing weights of the same size, but of different amounts, upon the skin. By this means it has been found that the parts which have the keenest sense of pressure are generally those in which sensibility to touch is most developed. The smallest weight which can be perceived is three one-hundredths of a grain, and this is recognized by the skin of the forehead, the temples, the back of the hand and the forearm. The tips of the fingers can perceive a weight of three-thirtieths of a grain, the chin and the nose one of three-fourths of a grain, while the finger nails do not notice one weighing less than fifteen grains. Considerable pressure may be exerted without its being perceived, if it is uniform. Thus when the hand is plunged into mercury the increased pressure is only at the line corresponding with the surface of the fluid.

## SMOKELESS GUNPOWDER.

The British Government has at last settled on a white, almost smokeless, powder for use in firearms. The importance of this statement is evident in view of the fact that until the powder had been decided upon it was impossible to ascertain accurately the length of the cartridge, and, consequently, the proportions of the coming weapon. There is, therefore, no longer any obstacle in the manufacture of the new magazine rifles, the production of which will make rapid progress after the new year. The powder gives out a very small report—not much greater than that of an air gun.

## FANS FOR MOVING VEHICLES.

A fan for cars and other moving vehicles is a most admirable invention. To one of the wheels of the vehicle a pulley is attached by a belt to a vertical shaft, having inside bearings on one end of the car, adapted to be clutched and disengaged from another shaft extending the length of the car. The fan-shafts are across the car, and are operated by belts or cords from the first, keeping fans along the top of the car in vigorous motion, causing a constant circulation of air.

## A KING IN EXILE.

He Still Dreams Gorgeously, Though He Is a Monarch Without Subjects.

At the Government House receptions and on other gala occasions here, a short, thick-set negro is one of the most conspicuous persons on view, both because the newspapers of Europe and America have had much to say of him for over a year, and also on account of the extraordinary figure he cuts in his state costume. He wears an Admiral's coat with immense bullion epaulettes, over a yellow plush vest with big green enamel buttons. The vest is cut very low, displaying a large area of immaculate linen. His jeans trousers have broad stripes of blue and red, and black silk hose and a pair of gorgeous, flower-embroidered slippers cover his rather extremities. On his head he wears a broad-brimmed hat of African manufacture, something like a

sombrero, and in the band are stuck at uniform distances five long ostrich feathers. In his ears are gold rings of unique design, and encircling his neck is a collar of shark's teeth, with a bear's tooth tipped with gold by way of a pendant. He wears white cotton gloves and as many flashy rings as his fingers and thumbs will accommodate.

This remarkable person is a King in exile. King Ja Ja, of Opobo, West Africa, who for many years lorded it over a small district among the oil rivers of the Niger delta. All the people here have the story of his career at their fingers' ends, and they point him out to strangers as the boss curiosity of the island. They tell how his natural cunning and his unscrupulous nature lifted him from slavery to freedom and sovereignty. They repeat the stories of his cannibalism, which are numerous enough to fill a book. Ja Ja told Captain Verney, of the Royal Navy, twenty years ago, that all sensible men were cannibals, and he said he knew nothing in the eating line that was quite so toothsome as a little boy's ankle. That was before Ja Ja was King, but even then he was getting rich trading with British merchants. A few years ago Ja Ja built him a palace, which was a gorgeous affair as palaces go in West Africa. Under each foundation post he buried a slave alive about twenty in all, for no earthly reason, apparently, except to show that he had plenty of slaves to spare. All the stories of his degraded barbarism are known here, and are told again and again.

It is about two years since the crowning act of Ja Ja's cruelty induced the British Government to take his precious person into custody and put him out of the way of doing further harm. For years he had exacted tribute upon every pound of merchandise that entered or left his country. The white merchants at last decided that they would not be blackmailed by Ja Ja any longer. They told him he might make as much money as he pleased in trade, but he must not meddle with their business. Thereupon he ordered his people to have nothing more to do with the white traders, and suspecting that his dutiful subjects in one district were still trading with the whites he marched his little army to the place and in a few days killed 700 people. Then the British sent an expedition to Ja Ja's country and made things very hot him, and when they returned to the coast Ja Ja in chains was the most conspicuous feature of the procession.

About a year ago Ja Ja arrived at Kingston, where the imperial authorities thought, they could easily keep him out of mischief. They gave him an allowance of \$4,000 a year for spending money, and he has plenty of money besides of his own, though he spends very little. He nearly died of homesickness, and before long sent a piteous appeal to England for a few companions to cheer him up. He asked that a dozen of his wives be sent to St. Vincent to share his exile. He thought his request was exceedingly modest, as he petitioned for only a small part of his harem. Not to encourage polygamy, however, the wise authorities decided that one wife was enough. They graciously permitted Ja Ja to take his pick, and he sent for Patience.

Queen Patience is here, and is usually in the society of her liege lord, who is old enough to be her father. She is a young thing, dark and dumpy, and is not at all regal nor dignified in appearance.—Kingston (West India) Cor. N. Y. Sun.

## IN SINGLE BLESSEDNESS.

Luxurious Quarters in Which New York's Wealthy Bachelors Reside.

The rich bachelors of New York are to my mind the most comfortably and luxuriously housed men in the world. I do not know exactly how to account for it. It seems to me a condition of things which exists only in New York. The London bachelor may be a tremendous swell if he is rich, but in no case out of ten he is satisfied with quiet chambers in Jermyn street or in a locality that is similarly near the clubs, while the larger portion of his income is expended for guns, dogs, horses and a house or shooting box somewhere in the country. In Paris the apartments of bachelors are nearly always pretty and tasteful, but seldom expensive. The Frenchmen have a great fancy for Creton hangings and white paint well gilded. The pictures in their rooms are invariably good, but the decorations do not display anything like the magnificence that prevails in the homes of New York's unmarried men. I think that this is largely because there are very few confirmed bachelors in Paris. Every man in France looks upon marriage as his fate. It is largely a business transaction, and he simply waits until he can make a good bargain. Pending that time he lives comfortably, but does not invest fortunes in his surroundings. I had breakfast once in Paris with a man whose reputation as a viveur is more than national. His name has been associated with those of a number of famous women, but aside from this phase of his life he is a promoter of cable companies, a man of title, a member of the jockey club, and a Parisian to his finger-tips. He was just the sort of a man, in fact, that one would expect to find housed in magnificent fashion. I found that he lived in an apartment on the first floor of a big house on the Boulevard Haussmann. His stable was in the rear of the house. There was a drawing-room, a dining-room, two or three bed-rooms, and then a long passage-way, at the end of which were the servants' quarters and the kitchen. The dining-room was the most pretentious room in the apartment. We took breakfast there at a table that would accommodate about ten guests. The decorations were in blue and gold. The table was oval, to match the room; the chairs were oak and the hangings neither notable nor particularly valuable. It was precisely like the interior of any one of five thousand flats in New York City.

Yesterday, on the other hand, I met a man on Broadway as I was walking up toward home to dinner whom I knew slightly, and who insisted upon my going into his apartment for a glass



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of sherry as an appetizer. He is the manager or junior partner, or something of that sort, in an importing house on Worth street. His age is about forty years, his habits are stocky and methodical, and he is not particularly attractive. I had not seen him for two or three years, and he evidently had an abundant fund of gossip. We turned into the Metropolitan opera house building, went up in the elevator and entered his apartment. The reception room was neutral tinted and every thing was perfectly harmonized. We went up from there into the drawing room, and for a moment I was astonished. There were \$60,000 or \$70,000 worth of paintings on the walls, and the room might have served fittingly for the ante-chamber of the Czar. Indeed, I doubt if the Czar has so cozy and beautiful an apartment in either of his palaces. The room was octagonal, and in the middle of it was a plush lounge or settee precisely the shape of the room in miniature. The back rose to a marble base, which was surmounted by a superb bronze water

nymph, life-size and wonderfully graceful and perfect in outline. There were several smaller bronzes about the room, and all the divans and chairs were built so that they fitted into certain niches in the wall or corresponded to the general contour of the room.

The dry goods man lives alone in this magnificent place, indulging his fancies with a lavish hand. I do not care to marry," he said in the course of our short talk. "It is much better this way."—N. Y. Cor. Philadelphia Times.

## Accidents Will Happen.

Mr. De Prig (of Boston, in a Dakota hotel)—Walter, what caused the explosion just now at the other end of the dining-room? Was somebody shot?

Walter—Oh, no, sir. We don't allow shooting in the dining-room. The cook was a little careless, and let a cartridge from his revolver fall in the soup, and the gent who was just carried out happened to crush it between his teeth.—Time.



## Some Novel Uses for SAPOLIO.

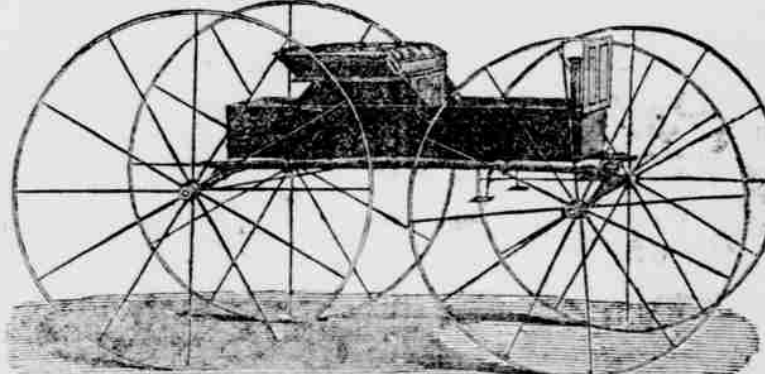
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